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ABSTRACT

As part of the White House Initiative on Educational Excellence for Hispanic Americans, this brochure (in English and Spanish) provides a guide to assist parents in helping their children become ready to read and to learn. The suggestions include: (1) talking to infants/toddlers to help them learn to speak and understand the meaning of words; (2) reading to infants every day starting at 6 months of age; (3) using sounds, songs, gestures, and words that rhyme to help infants learn about language and its uses; (4) pointing out printed words in home and other places; (5) taking children's books and writing materials whenever parents leave home with their children; (6) creating a quiet, special place in the home to read, write, and draw; (7) helping children see that reading is important; (8) limiting the amount and type of television watched; and (9) reaching out to libraries and community and faith-based organizations for help in finding age-appropriate books, showing creative ways to use books, and providing year-round children's reading and educational activities. (KB)

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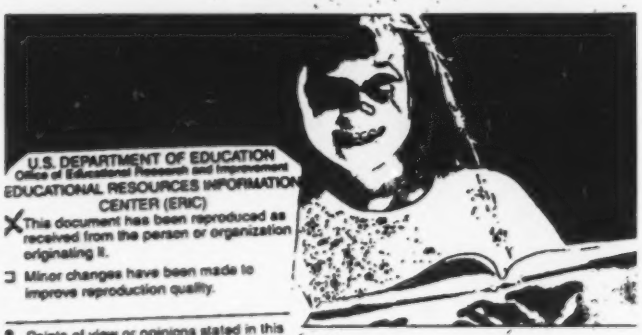
A GUIDE FOR READING

HOW PARENTS CAN HELP THEIR CHILDREN BE READY TO READ AND READY TO LEARN.



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GUÍA PARA LEER

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COMO LOS PADRES PUEDEN PREPARAR A SUS HIJOS A LEER Y APRENDER DESDE LA INFANCIA.

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FOR HISPANIC AMERICANS

1. Talk to your infant and toddler to help him learn to speak and understand the meaning of words. Point to objects that are near and describe them as you play and do daily activities together. Having a large vocabulary gives a child a great start when he enters school.

2. Read to your baby every day starting at six months of age. Reading and playing with books is a wonderful way to spend special time with her. Hearing words over and over helps her become familiar with them. Reading to your baby is one of the best ways to help her learn.

3. Use sounds, songs, gestures and words that rhyme to help your baby learn about language and its many uses. Babies need to hear language from a human being. Television is just noise to a baby.

4. Point out the printed words in your home and other places you take your child such as the grocery store. Spend as much time listening to your child as you do talking to him.

5. Take children's books and writing materials with you whenever you leave home. This gives your child fun activities to entertain and occupy him while traveling and going to the doctor's office or other appointments.

6. Create a quiet, special place in your home for your child to read, write and draw. Keep books and other reading materials where your child can easily reach them.

7. Help your child see that reading is important. Set a good example for your child by reading books, newspapers and magazines.

8. Limit the amount and type of television you and your child watch. Better yet, turn off the television and spend more time cuddling and reading books with your child. The time and attention you give your child has many benefits beyond helping him be ready for success in school.

9. Reach out to libraries and community and faith-based organizations. These organizations can:

- Help you find age-appropriate books to use at home with your child;
- Show you creative ways to use books with your child and other tips to help her learn; and
- Provide year-round children's reading and educational activities.

1. Platique con sus hijos desde pequeños para que aprendan a hablar y a entender los significados de las palabras. Muéstreles y explíqueles los distintos objetos que encuentre mientras juegan y hacen sus quehaceres. Un amplio vocabulario les dará a sus hijos una gran ventaja al empezar la escuela.

2. Léale a sus hijos todos los días desde que cumplan seis meses. Leer y jugar con libros es una manera muy especial de convivir con ellos. Cada vez que escuchan las mismas palabras, ellos se familiarizan cada vez más con esas palabras. La lectura es una de las maneras más eficientes para que aprendan.

3. Use sonidos, canciones, gestos y palabras que rimen para que sus hijos aprendan sobre el lenguaje y las distintas maneras que se utilizan las palabras. Los bebés necesitan escuchar el idioma en vivo de una persona. Para ellos los sonidos en la televisión son sólo ruido.

4. Muéstreles y léales las distintas palabras impresas dentro de su casa y en los distintos lugares a donde lleva a sus hijos, como las tiendas, por ejemplo. Es importante que invierta el mismo tiempo escuchando a sus hijos que hablando con ellos.

5. Procure llevarse libros y libretas de niños para escribir cuando salga de casa. Así sus hijos se ocupan y se entretienen mientras viajan, en el consultorio del médico, o en otras citas que usted tenga.

6. Establezca un sitio tranquilo en su casa donde sus hijos puedan leer, escribir y dibujar. Ponga libros y otros textos a su alcance.

7. Incúlquele a sus hijos la importancia de saber leer. Ponga el ejemplo leyendo libros, periódicos y revistas.

8. Reduzca la cantidad de televisión y los programas que vean en casa. Lo mejor sería apagar la televisión por completo y pasar más tiempo mimándolos y leyéndoles. El tiempo y la atención que le dedique a sus hijos no sólo les beneficiara en la escuela si no también para toda la vida.

9. Intégrese a los programas que ofrece su biblioteca, su comunidad y su iglesia. Estos programas pueden:

- Ofrecerle libros y otras lecturas propias para la edad de su hijo que pueda utilizar en casa.
- Enseñarle formas divertidas de usar los libros y ayudarle en la enseñanza de sus hijos.
- Ofrecerle lecturas y otros programas educativos para sus hijos durante el año.

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Fotografía de la Casa Blanca

"Be your child's teacher - let him know that books and reading are important. Reading to your young child now will help him do well in school."

Mrs. Laura Bush

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